

SHOTS FIRED, BUT BY WHOM?



On Thursday December 9, 1869, Sarah Ann Bridgers found herself unable to fulfill a recipe because she lacked the main ingredient, flour. She ran over to a neighbor's house and asked if she could borrow some flour, but unfortunately, they had none either. The neighbor informed Sarah that she planned to visit the mill on Friday and upon her return, she would deliver some of that flour to her. Sa-

rah agreed and headed back to her house where she lived alone. Sarah lived in the district school house about one mile from Burgaw Station.

On Friday, the neighbor sent her son to the mill to purchase some flour and asked that he stop at the house of Sarah and deliver a portion of it to her. Upon his return, he stopped at Sarah's house and knocked on the door. Receiving no answer, he knocked once more and called out to her. Once again, Sarah did not answer the door. Being curious, the boy walked over to the window and peered inside. Horrified at what he saw, he dropped the flour and ran as fast as he could home.

Upon return to his house, the boy screamed for his father and informed him of the gruesome sight he had just witnessed. The boy's father ran to several of the homes of nearby neighbors to get help and returned to the home of Sarah Ann Bridgers. They opened the front door of the home and were met with the horrific sight of a deceased woman, lying in front of the fire place, cold and stiff. It was quickly determined that she had been inhumanly murdered.



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On Thursday evening Sarah had been cooking when someone entered her home. The individual fired several shots hitting Sarah and leaving four slugs in her body and another four in the wall behind her. As she fell backward, her head landed at the edge of the fireplace and the handkerchief she was wearing caught fire. A telegram was sent to the Coroner and the neighbors kept watch over Sarah's body and the crime scene until Sunday afternoon when it was determined that it would be best to bury her.

On Monday December 13, 1869, the Coroner, Elkanah Allen held an inquest over the death of Sarah. Since the body had already been buried, the Coroner heard evidence from those who had seen the crime scene. Unfortunately, it was never determined who committed this gruesome murder or why.

